

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

understood that he had been lawfully elected—to which the Cardinal answered in the affirmative. The cardinals retired into the chapel, and, almost immediately, summoned Bartolommeo, and informed him, by the mouth of the Cardinal of Florence, that they had elected him Pope. " I am not worthy," was the answer, " but I shall not contradict the Divine will; I accept."¹ He was at once robed in the papal vestments, and enthroned on the altar ; the *Te Deum* was sung ; the doors were thrown open for clergy and laity to pay their homage, while, in the absence of Orsini, Cardinal de Vergne from a window of the palace formally proclaimed to the people the election of Pope Urban VI.

" *By the goodness and industry of the Roman People*" wrote the Mantuan agent, Cristoforo da Piacenza, to his master, " the lord cardinals have elected the Lord Bartolommeo, Archbishop of Bari, for Pope, a man with whom the holy Church of God is certainly well provided." " I am certain that the holy Church of God will be well governed, and I dare to say that for more than a hundred years she has not had such a pastor. For he has no kindred, and is most friendly with the Queen, experienced in the affairs of the world, wise and prudent. All the Romans without distinction are supremely joyful for the sake of the city^which has gained back her Spouse." ²

During Holy Week, the cardinals who had fled from Rome returned. On Easter Sunday, April 18, Urban was crowned by Cardinal Orsini in front of St. Peter's, " with the greatest solemnity and devotion," and went in procession with the cardinals, all riding on white horses, to take possession of the Lateran. The cardinals asked him for graces and favours, spiritual and temporal, for themselves and their relatives and friends, and in all respects treated him as lawful Pope. As such, they announced his election to the cardinals at Avignon, to the Emperor, and to the other princes of Christendom ; but it seems

¹ Testimony of Cardinal de Luna, *he.* «'/.», pp. 259, 260.

² Despatches of April 9 and 12, 1378. Pastor, *Geschichte*, documents 10 and II. The hermit-bishop, on the other hand (in the light of later events), tries to make out that the Romans disliked the election of a Neapolitan.